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Rinko Kikuchi

Rinko Kikuchi (pronunciation) (菊地 凛子, *Kikuchi Rinko*; born **Yuriko Kikuchi** (菊地 百合子, *Kikuchi Yuriko*), January 6, 1981) is a Japanese actress. She was the first Japanese actress to be nominated for an Academy Award in 50 years, for her work in *Babel* (2006). Kikuchi's other notable films include *Norwegian Wood* (2010), which screened in competition at the 67th Venice Film Festival and Guillermo del Toro's science fiction action film *Pacific Rim* (2013). For her role in the drama film *Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter* (2014), Kikuchi received an Independent Spirit Award nomination for Best Female Lead. She played a supporting role in the HBO Max crime drama series *Tokyo Vice*.

Rinko Kikuchi
菊地 凛子

Kikuchi at the 37th Tokyo International Film Festival in October 2024

Born	Yuriko Kikuchi January 6, 1981 Hadano, Kanagawa, Japan
Occupation	Actress
Years active	1999–present
Height	1.69 m (5 ft 6½ in)
Spouse	Shōta Sometani (m. 2014)
Children	2
Website	www.rinkokikuchi.com (http://www.rinkokikuchi.com)

Early life

Kikuchi was born on January 6, 1981, in Hadano, Kanagawa, the youngest of three children. She was discovered by a talent agent inside the shopping mall Laforet Harajuku at the age of 15.[1]

Career

Kikuchi made her debut in 1999, under her birth name, Yuriko Kikuchi, with the Kaneto Shindo film *Will to Live*. Soon after, in 2001, she starred in the celebrated Kazuyoshi Komuri film *Sora no Ana* (空の穴), which was featured at several international festivals, including the Rotterdam Film Festival. In 2004, Kikuchi appeared in the well-received Katsuhito Ishii film *The Taste of Tea*, which was selected for the Cannes Film Festival.[2]

In 2006, Kikuchi was chosen by Japanese film producer Yoko Narahashi for the Alejandro González Iñárritu film *Babel*,[3] where she played Chieko Wataya, a troubled, deaf teenage girl, for which she received international attention.[2] She was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress.[4] Kikuchi was the fourth person in Academy Award history to be nominated for a role in which she does not speak. She won several awards, such as the

National Board of Review Award for Best Breakthrough Female Performance (tying with Jennifer Hudson) and the Gotham Independent Film Award for Breakthrough Actor. Since her appearance in the movie "Babel", she has been actively involved in numerous films outside of Japan. Under the name **Rinbjö** (リンビョウ), she also pursues musical activities.

She has appeared in two of Mamoru Oshii's films: *The Sky Crawlers* (2008) and *Assault Girls* (2009). Kikuchi starred in Rian Johnson's second film, *The Brothers Bloom* (2009), which was her first full English-language feature. Though she plays a main character, she only speaks three words; her character is said to only know three words of English.

Kikuchi (left) with Kenichi Matsuyama attending the Venice Film Festival in 2010.

In 2010, Kikuchi was cast as Naoko in Tran Anh Hung's adaptation of Haruki Murakami's novel *Norwegian Wood*. In March 2011, she was added to the cast of *47 Ronin*, the first English-language adaptation of the Japanese Chushingura legend of samurai loyalty and revenge.[5] Kikuchi described her villain character to the American version of *Glamour* as "a real bitch."[1] In 2013, she appears in *Pacific Rim*, having improved her English by watching the American television series *The Voice*.[1]

In 2014, Kikuchi starred in *Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter*, directed by David Zellner. Kikuchi was cast in the Season 2 of the HBO science fiction series *Westworld*.

Kikuchi plays the role of Emi Maruyama, the supervisor of the lead character Jake Adelstein, in the 2022 HBO Max series *Tokyo Vice*. In August 2022, she portrayed a taxi driver in the music video for Mondo Grosso's "Crypt".[6]

In 2024, she featured on the official poster of 37th Tokyo International Film Festival, created by fashion designer Koshino Junko. She was also appointed festival navigator, who "navigated" the audience at official events as the face of the festival.[7]

Kikuchi (far right) at the opening of the 65th Berlin International Film Festival in 2015.

Personal life

From 2010 to 2011, Kikuchi was in a relationship with director Spike Jonze, with whom she briefly resided in New York.[8][9]

Kikuchi married Japanese actor Shōta Sometani on December 31, 2014.[10] In October 2016, Kikuchi gave birth to their first child.[11] Their second child was born in late 2018.[12]

Filmography

Film

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
1999	*Will to Live*			
2000	*By Player*			
	Akai Shibafu			
2001	*Paradise*			
	Hole in the Sky	Taeko		
	Drug	Mai		
2002	*Mike Yokohama: A Forest with No Name*	Number 51		
	Hachigatsu no Maboroshi			
2003	*Age 17 : 17-sai*	Hitomi		
2004	*Tori*			
	The Taste of Tea	Yuriko Kikuchi		
	69			
	Survive Style 5+			
	The Reason			
2005	*Tagatameni: Portrait of the Wind*			
2006	*Funky Forest: The First Contact*	Kikuchi		
	Arch Angels	Nobuko Sakurai		
	Babel	Chieko Wataya		
	Umi de no hanashi	Kaori		
2007	*Deathfix: Die and Let Live*	Sayoko		[13]
	Genius Party		Voice	
	Tokyo Serendipity	Junda Atsuko		
2008	*The Brothers Bloom*	Bang Bang		[14]
	The Sky Crawlers	Suito Kusanagi	Voice	[15]
	Kiru – KILL			
2009	*Map of the Sounds of Tokyo*	Ryu		
	Strawberry Seminar			
	Sideways	Mina Parker		
	Assault Girls	Lucifer		
	42 One Dream Rush			

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
2010	*Shanghai*	Sumiko	Uncredited	
	Norwegian Wood	Naoko		
2011	*At River's Edge*	Tazu		
	Love Strikes!	Naoko Hayashida		[16]
	The Warped Forest			
2013	*Pacific Rim*	Mako Mori		
	47 Ronin	Witch		
2014	*Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter*	Kumiko		
	Last Summer	Naomi		[17]
2015	*Nobody Wants the Night*	Allaka		
	Dear Deer		Cameo	
2016	*Terra Formars*	Asuka Moriki		
2017	*Highheels: A Fairy Tale Born of Obsession*		Short film	
2018	*Pacific Rim Uprising*	Mako Mori		
2019	*We Are Little Zombies*	Yūko		
2022	*What to Do with the Dead Kaiju?*	Colonel Sen Masago		[18]
2023	*In Love and Deep Water*	Aina Horikawa		[19]
	Yoko	Yoko		[20]
2024	*Who's Gone*	Terada		[21]
2025	*Ya Boy Kongming! The Movie*	Ayvil Suzuki		[22]
2026	*Ha-Chan, Shake Your Booty!*	Haru	Completed	

Television

Year	Title	Role	Notes	Ref.
1999	*Bakayaro! Special 2*			
	Kawaii dakeja Dame kashira			
2001	*Churasan*		*Asadora*	[23]
	kokiku			
2002	*The Private Detective Mike Hama*			
2003	*Uchu ni Ichiban Chikai basho*			
	Ai to Shihonshugi			
2004	*The Reason*			
2009–2010	*Liar Game 2*	Ryo Katsuragi		
2010	*Moteki*	Naoko Hayashida		
2014	*Gu-Gu Datte Neko de Aru*	Chikako		
2015	*To Give a Dream*	Mikiko Abe	Miniseries	
2018	*Westworld*	Akane		
2019	*A Butterfly Effect: The Murder Analysis Team*	Machiko Aiba		
2021–2023	*Invasion*	Hinata		
2022	*PICU*	Samejima Tatsuki		
	The 13 Lords of the Shogun	Noe	*Taiga* drama	[24]
2022–2024	*Tokyo Vice*	Emi Maruyama	2 seasons	
2023–2024	*Boogie Woogie*	Ritsuko Ibarada	*Asadora*	[23]
2024	*The Tiger and Her Wings*	Ritsuko Ibarada	*Asadora*	[25]
2025	*The Hot Spot*	Masako Umemoto		[26]
	Pray Speak What Has Happened	The woman at the information desk		[27]

Awards and nominations

Awards and nominations received by Rinko Kikuchi

Organizations[a]	Year[b]	Category	Work	Result	Ref.
Academy Awards	2007	Best Supporting Actress	*Babel*	Nominated	[4]
Alliance of Women Film Journalists	2006	Best Breakthrough Performance For A Young Actress		Nominated	[28]
Asian Film Awards	2011	Best Actress	*Norwegian Wood*	Nominated	[29]
	2024	Best Actress	*Yoko*	Nominated	[30]
Austin Film Critics Association	2007	Best Supporting Actress	*Babel*	Won	[31]
Chicago Film Critics Association	2006	Best Supporting Actress		Won	[32]
		Most Promising Performer		Nominated	
Chlotrudis Society for Independent Films	2010	Best Supporting Actress	*The Brothers Bloom*	Nominated	[33]
	2016	Best Actress	*Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter*	Nominated	[34]
Columbus Film Critics Association	2007	Best Supporting Actress	*Babel*	Runner-up	[35]
Critics' Choice Movie Awards	2007	Best Acting Ensemble		Nominated	[36]
		Best Supporting Actress		Nominated	
Gold Derby Awards	2007	Best Supporting Actress		Nominated	[37]
		Best Ensemble Cast		Nominated	
	2018	Drama Guest Actress	*Westworld*	Nominated	[38]
Golden Globe Awards	2007	Best Supporting Actress – Motion Picture	*Babel*	Nominated	[39]
Gotham Awards	2006	Best Ensemble Cast	*Babel*	Won	[40]
		Breakthrough Actor[c]		Won	
Independent Spirit Awards	2014	Best Female Lead	*Kumiko, the Treasure Hunter*	Nominated	[41]
Mainichi Film Awards	2024	Best Actress	*Yoko*	Nominated	[42]
National Board of Review	2007	Best Breakthrough Performance - Female[d]	*Babel*	Won	[43]
Online Film & Television Association	2007	Best Brekathrough Performance: Female		Nominated	[44]
		Best Supporting Actress		Nominated	

Organizations[a]	Year[b]	Category	Work	Result	Ref.
	2018	Best Guest Actress In A Drama Series	*Westworld*	Nominated	[45]
Online Film Critics Society	2007	Best Supporting Actress	*Babel*	Nominated	[46]
		Breakthrough Performer		Nominated	
Palm Springs International Film Festival	2007	Best Ensemble Cast		Won	[47]
San Diego Film Critics Society	2006	Best Ensemble		Won	[48]
Satellite Award	2006	Best Supporting Actress		Nominated	[49]
Screen Actors Guild Awards	2007	Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Supporting Role		Nominated	[50]
		Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture		Nominated	
Shanghai International Film Festival	2023	Best Actress	*Yoko*	Won	[51][52]
Tama Film Awards	2023	Best Actress		Won	[53]
Toronto Film Critics Association	2006	Best Supporting Actress	*Babel*	Nominated	[54]
Utah Film Critics Association	2006	Best Supporting Performance by an Actor, Female		Won	[55]

See also

- Asian Americans in arts and entertainment
- List of Academy Award winners and nominees from Japan
- List of Academy Award winners and nominees of Asian descent
- List of actors with Academy Award nominations

Notes

a. Awards, festivals, honors and other miscellaneous organizations are listed in alphabetical order.
b. Indicates the year of ceremony. Each year is linked to the article about the awards held that year, wherever possible.
c. Shared with Shareeka Epps.
d. Shared with Jennifer Hudson.

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